

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Shrimp Seasons and Fishing Closures

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953.B and R.S. 49:967.D of the Administrative Procedure Act, which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons, and R.S. 56:6.1 which provides the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries with authority to declare a closed season on any and all species of fish found or existing in the waters of the state, and a resolution adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on May 6, 2010 which granted the Secretary the authority to open any area, or re-open any previously closed area, of inside waters to shrimping based upon biological and technical data, the secretary hereby opens the 2010 spring inshore shrimp season and opens a portion of the state's outside waters in the following portions of Shrimp Management Zone 2, effective at 12:00 noon May 10, 2010:

All state inside waters north of the inside/outside shrimp line as described in R.S. 56:495 from the eastern shore of the Empire Canal at 89 degrees 36 minutes 19.9 seconds west longitude westward to the western shore of Bayou Lafourche; that portion of state inside waters north of 29 degrees 13 minutes 12 seconds north latitude from the western shore of Bayou Lafourche westward to the western shore of Oyster Bayou at 91 degrees 07 minutes 53 seconds west longitude; and all state inside waters north of the inside/outside shrimp line extending from the western shore of Oyster Bayou at 91 degrees 07 minutes 53 seconds west longitude to the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island and all state outside waters seaward from the inside/outside shrimp line from the eastern portion of Atchafalaya Bay at Point au Fer Island at 91 degrees 20 minutes 44 seconds west longitude westward to the western shore of Freshwater Bayou Canal at longitude 92 degrees 18 minutes 33 seconds west longitude.

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Secretary Robert Barham also declares that the portion of state inside waters north of the inside/outside shrimp line from the eastern shore of the Empire Canal at 89 degrees 36 minutes 19.9 seconds west longitude eastward to the Mississippi River and all inside waters north of the inside/outside shrimp line from the Mississippi River eastward to the Louisiana/Mississippi state line except for Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Borgne, Lake Maurepas, Chef and Rigoletes Passes and all state inside waters south of 29 degrees 13 minutes 12 seconds north latitude from the western shore of Bayou Lafourche westward to the western shore of Oyster Bayou at 91 degrees 07 minutes 53 seconds west longitude Fer Island at 91 degrees 20 minutes 44 seconds west longitude will close to all commercial and recreational fishing effective 12:00 noon, May 10, 2010.

The Deep Horizon drilling rig accident has resulted in a significant release of hydrocarbon pollutants into the waters offshore of southeast Louisiana and these pollutants have the potential to impact fish and other aquatic life in portions of

these coastal waters. Efforts have been made and are continuing to be made to minimize the potential threats to fish and other aquatic life.

This action is taken in close coordination with the Department of Health and Hospitals, and the Department of Environmental Quality to avoid the possibility that commercially harvested and recreationally caught fish and other aquatic life used for consumption are tainted with hydrocarbons. Governor Jindal in a Declaration of Emergency issued on April 29, 2010 stated in part that "a declaration that a state of emergency exists is appropriate due to the predicted impact of oil along the Louisiana coast leaking from the Deepwater Horizon which threatens the state's natural resources, including land, water, fish, wildlife, fowl and other birds, and likewise threatens the livelihoods of Louisiana's citizens living along the coast which increases the economic impact of this incident".

Effective with the closure, no person shall take or possess or attempt to take any species of fish from waters within the closed area or the beaches that border the closed area. The possession, sale, barter, trade, or exchange of any fish or other aquatic life from the closed area during the closure is prohibited. This area will remain closed to fishing until reopened by the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Robert J. Barham
Secretary

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